

## REMARKS

Claims 52, 55, 56, 58, 59, and 61-70 are pending in the application. Claims 68-70 are new independent claims, and a check for three additional independent claims is enclosed. (There are only 15 total claims.)

### Claims 52, 55, and 56

Independent claim 52 and dependent claims 55 and 56 were rejected under section 112. The examiner had previously indicated that claim 54 (which recited a retainer that is tightened into abutment with the impeller and includes a threaded nut) was allowable. The previous effort to incorporate the elements of claim 54 into claim 52 suggested that the threaded nut must abut the impeller. The examiner found that this created an indefiniteness problem because, in figs 4 and 5, the threaded nut 125 may not technically abut the impeller.

The revised language better tracks the language of claim 54, reciting a retainer that is tightened into abutment with the impeller and includes a threaded nut. Since the revised claim language does not require the threaded nut to abut the impeller (it is sufficient if another part of the retainer, such as the washer 120, does so), it is believed that claim 52 (and dependent claims 55 and 56) can now be allowed.

### Claims 58, 59, and 61-70

Previously allowed, independent claims 58, 61, and 62 were rejected based primarily on the Tiller 4,147,470 patent and the Lengsfeld *et al.* 4,709,794 patent. Each of those patents includes threaded parts that could be read as having “surface geometries comprising a non-circular cross section.” In order to distinguish these threaded arrangements, the applicants have revised the language of the claims in two ways.

In independent claim 58, the applicants have specified that the two cross sections are “non-rotationally coupled.” The parts in the cited patents are threaded together, which is a form of rotational coupling. The parts are not non-rotationally coupled, as in the present application.

Having thus distinguished the newly-applied art, the applicants believe that independent claim 58 (and dependent claim 59) can now be allowed.

The same or a similar limitation is also used in each of new claims 69 and 70, which otherwise correspond with the previous versions of claims 61 and 62. Based on this distinction over arrangements with threaded parts, these new claims are also believed to be allowable.

In independent claims 61 and 62, the applicants have specified “an eccentric cross sectional configuration.” “Eccentric cross sectional configuration” is used here to mean a configuration that deviates both from a circular cylindrical section (a shape that permits rotation regardless of axial advancement) and from a threaded section (a shape that permits rotation with axial advancement). Because the newly cited art has a threaded shape, it does not have “an eccentric cross sectional configuration” as that term is used here. Having thus distinguished the newly-applied art, the applicants believe that independent claims 61 and 62 (and dependent claims 63-67) can now be allowed.

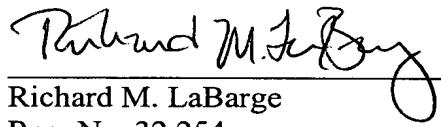
The same limitation is also used in new claim 68, which otherwise corresponds with the previous version of claim 61. Based on this distinction over arrangements with threaded parts, this new claim is also believed to be allowable.

These changes are believed to put the application in form for allowance, and thus the applicants request a notice of allowance of claims 52, 55, 56, 58, 59, and 61-70.

Respectfully submitted,

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